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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q NORTH KOREA - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday morning papers gave top coverage to a bloodless coup staged by the Thai military, as well as an anticipated landslide victory by Chief Cabinet Secretary Abe in today's LDP presidential election.

11. "Imposition of Financial Sanctions on DPRK: No Option But to Tighten Pressure on North Korea" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri editorialized (9/20): "The DPRK has been steadfastly refusing to return to the six-party talks on its nuclear development and has not shown any intention to agree to a moratorium on its missile launches. In light of this, there was no option but to increase pressure on the country. The GOJ imposed financial sanctions on North Korea on Tuesday.

12. "The sanctions effectively ban 15 North Korea-related organizations and trading firms, as well as one individual, from remitting funds overseas. The sanctions also prevent them from withdrawing funds from financial institutions in Japan. The measures were decided in line with a UNSC resolution unanimously adopted on July 15, condemning North Korea's July 5 firing of missiles."

13. "Resumption of Talks Necessary to Resolve North Korean Nuclear Issue" An editorial in the liberal Asahi commented (9/20): "The UNSC unanimously adopted a resolution condemning North Korea's July 5 firing of ballistic missiles. The resolution also urges all member nations to suspend the flow of missile materials and technology, as well as funds to the North. Japan imposed financial sanctions on Pyongyang in line with the UNSC resolution. The Australian government has also announced the imposition of similar sanctions on the North.

¶4. "The imposition of sanctions appears to be unavoidable as long as Pyongyang defies the UNSC resolution. North Korea should accept the resolution and commit to a peaceful solution of its nuclear development issue, as called for at the six-party talks, as soon as possible. Not to be forgotten at the same time is the fact that as long as pressure is being applied to drive the North into a corner, there will be no solution to the problem."

¶5. "Tighten International Iron Ring around DPRK!" The business daily Nihon Keizai editorialized (9/20): "The GOJ imposed financial sanctions on North Korea on Tuesday, conforming with the UNSC resolution which condemned the North Korean firing of ballistic missiles in early July. It is only natural that Japan should tighten pressure on the North as long as Pyongyang does not show any sincerity in resolving its nuclear and abduction issues."

¶6. "It is now time for the US and Japan to join hands and tighten an international iron ring around Pyongyang and force it to alter policy.... The GOJ financial sanctions, imposed yesterday, were still rudimentary, targeting only a limited number of organizations and an individual affiliated with North Korea. The imposition of financial sanctions will be gradually strengthened, depending on how the North reacts to these punitive measures."

SCHIEFFER